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**CONGRATULATING METROPOLITAN
AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL
(AME) CHURCH ON ITS 175TH AN-
NIVERSARY**

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 17, 2013

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask the House of Representatives to join me in congratulating Metropolitan African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Church, also known as "The National Cathedral of African Methodism," on its 175th anniversary, and for its contributions to the District of Columbia.

Founded in 1838, Metropolitan AME Church has a long history of notable activities and events. The church was a safe haven to runaway persons who were enslaved, and pioneered the Bethel Literary Society, which enriched the civic, cultural and intellectual lives of African American citizens. Through the years, Metropolitan AME Church has hosted a number of prominent speakers, such as Frederick Douglass, Paul Laurence Dunbar, Mary McLeod Bethune, Eleanor Roosevelt, Joel Elias Spingarn, E. E. Just, Alain Locke, Mordecai Johnson, Hubert H. Humphrey, Jesse Jackson, and Bishop Desmond Tutu, among others. The church was also the site of memorial services for Frederick Douglass, A. Philip Randolph and Rosa Parks. This historic landmark was also the location of both President Bill Clinton and Vice President Albert Gore's inauguration prayer services. In recent years, President Barack Obama and the First Family have worshipped at Metropolitan AME Church.

Members of the congregation are committed to charity. Together, they rose over \$56,000 in money and goods for the survivors of Hurricane Katrina and Rita. Metropolitan AME Church also supports social justice initiatives that aim to improve the lives of all citizens of the District of Columbia and surrounding jurisdictions. The church has worked with ex-offenders, who are reentering society and most recently, the church has focused on initiatives to "Stop the Pipeline to Prison" and "Ending Gun Violence."

Metropolitan AME Church is committed to preserving the architectural and cultural heritage that distinguishes the District of Columbia. The church received the designation as an historical site and has renovated the church (\$4.5 Million) to maintain its edifice as a part of AME history. Just recently, the church was awarded a \$90,000 grant from the Partners in Preservation to restore the stained-glass windows surrounding the recently restored episcopacy windows on the church's primary facade.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in celebrating the 175th anniversary of Metropolitan AME.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DUNCAN HUNTER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 17, 2013

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Speaker, the purpose of my statement is to inform the House that my absence last week, from July 8 to July 12, and on Tuesday of this week, July 16, was due to a necessary surgical procedure called anterior cervical disc fusion, performed by an outstanding team of professionals. With recovery underway, I'm eager to get back to work alongside the rest of my colleagues.

**SECOND MAJOR UNANSWERED
QUESTION ABOUT THE TER-
RORIST ATTACK IN BENGHAZI**

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 17, 2013

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, yesterday I came to the floor to announce that in the remaining legislative days before the August recess, I will be speaking out daily to remind the American people about the key questions that remain to be answered. I will also be sending a series of letters to a number of agencies responsible for the failures leading up to, during and in the aftermath of the Benghazi attacks.

Yesterday, I raised the question of why no survivors, whether State Department, CIA or private security contractor employees—have been asked to testify publicly before Congress. Today, I am raising questions about whether there were intelligence failures in the vetting of the Libyan militias hired to provide security for the consulate, which agency official was responsible for vetting these militias and which insider source provided the terrorists with details about the U.S. compound in advance of the attack.

These are serious questions that deserve clear answers. After nearly a year of committee investigations, I believe the House should be able to provide this information to the American people. Additionally, to the best of my knowledge, no official has been held accountable for any intelligence failures with regard to vetting the loyalty of the Libyan militias.

I raise these questions today in the context of the piece recently published by Vanity Fair, which is an excerpt from one of the books being written by the Benghazi survivors who have yet to appear before Congress. The book, *Under Fire: The Untold Story of the Attack in Benghazi*, provides a blow-by-blow account as seen from the eyes of the Diplomatic Security Service agents on the ground that night. The take away: this was a well-planned attack by terrorists who knew what they were doing and who clearly had help from the local militias contracted to provide "security."

How else, as the piece points out, would the attackers seem "to know there were new, uninstalled generators behind the February 17

Martyrs Brigade command post, nestled between the building and the overhand of foliage from the western wall, as well as a dozen jerry cans full of gasoline to power them." This gas was used to set the fires in the compound.

There are additional concerns about the security guards outside the consulate who left in a car moments before the assault on the consulate began. According to the *Vanity Fair* piece:

The feeling of security was enhanced at 2102 hours when an SSC (Supreme Security Council—a coalition of individual and divergently minded Libyan militias) patrol vehicle arrived. The tan Toyota Hilux pickup, with an extended cargo hold, decorated in the colors and emblem of the SSC, pulled off to the side of the road in front of Charlie-1. The driver shut off the engine. He wasn't alone—the darkened silhouette of another man was seen to his right. The pickup sported twin Soviet-produced 23-mm. anti-aircraft guns—the twin-barreled cannons were lethal against Mach 2.0 fighter aircraft and devastating beyond belief against buildings, vehicles, and humans. The two men inside didn't come out to engage in the usual small talk or to bum some cigarettes from the guards or even to rob them. The Libyan guards, after all, were not armed.

"Suddenly the SSC militiaman behind the steering wheel fired up his engine and headed west, the vehicle crunching the gravel with the weight of its tires.

"Later, following the attack, according to the (unclassified) Accountability Review Board report, an SSC official said that 'he ordered the removal of the car 'to prevent civilian casualties.' This hints that the SSC knew an attack was imminent; that it did not warn the security assets in the Special Mission Compound implies that it and elements of the new Libyan government were complicit in the events that transpired."

Why, indeed, did the SSC guards not notify the consulate that an attack was imminent? And why were they allowed to leave as the terrorists gathered outside the compound? Again, these questions are essential to learning exactly who was responsible for the attack on the consulate.

According to an article by Eli Lake published in *The Daily Beast* earlier this year, the CIA was "responsible in part for one major failure the night of the Benghazi attack: his officers were responsible for vetting the February 17 Martyr's Brigade, the militia that was supposed to be the first responder on the night of the attack, but melted away when the diplomatic mission was attacked."

The article continued, "Another U.S. intelligence official . . . said the failure for the CIA at Benghazi was the mistaken assumption that the Zintan tribe in Benghazi—that provided many of the fighters for the February 17 Martyr's Brigade—would have the same loyalties as the Zintan tribe in Tripoli, which had protected several senior U.S. officials including Hillary Clinton in her visit last year to Libya. 'The CIA failed at mapping the human terrain,' this official said. 'They did not understand the politics in Benghazi and we paid the price.'"

These are important issues for the Congress to address and we have an obligation to ensure that reforms are made to prevent similar failures in the future. However, to the best of my knowledge, neither the State Department nor the CIA have disclosed who was responsible for vetting the militias, whether there was an intelligence failure or what reforms may have been implemented in the way of the militia's betrayal last September.